

*English Copper & Brass*  
A B R I E F

E S S A Y 31

O N T H E

Copper and Brass Manufactures

O F

E N G L A N D, K

Only Relative to the

Present D E B A T E

I N T H E

House of Commons.

Humbly submitted to the Consideration of the  
present Parliament, by a Disinterested Hand.

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L O N D O N :

Printed in the Year 1712.

A BRIEF

ESSAY

ON THE

Copper and Brass Manufactures

OF

NEW GLASS

Only Relative to the

Present DEBATE

IN THE

540

House of Commons

Humbly submitted to the Consideration of the  
Present Parliament by the Disinterested Hand



LONDON:

Printed in the Year 1712



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To the Right Honourable *William*  
*Bromley*, Esq; Speaker of the House  
of Commons.

S I R,

**T**HE following Treatise written, as  
we have Reason to believe, by a  
Person who has had the Honour to be a  
Member of Parliament, and as he him-  
self Notes, known to most of the House;  
yet nothing is more true, than that the  
Manufacturers now before your Honour,  
as Petitioners on Behalf of the Brass Trade,  
are utterly unacquainted with the Person  
of the Author.

Yet, Sir, they conceive the Arguments  
brought by this Anonymous Author seem  
to be so clear, so well digested, and the  
Person seems so well acquainted, not only

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*with the Interest of our Manufacture, but with the true Interest of England in General; that abating for the little Digressions, either in Stile or Observation, which we humbly hope will be borne with, we cannot but recommend the Arguments used in Behalf of both, to the Perusal of all those who have a true Regard to the general Interest of the English Trade.*

*We have nothing to ask Pardon for in our Addressing this Tract to your Honour, but the Ironical Manner of some Part of the Performance: But we make it our humble Petition to your Honour, that passing over the Author's Excursions of that, or any other kind, you will be pleased to give his Arguments such a Weight, as to your known Judgment shall seem meet; and we humbly hope, that you will find such agreeable Force, and such clear Reasoning in our most just Cause, as may Entitle us to the Favour of your Good Opinion: As, Sir,*



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nothing can be more absurd than the weak Insinuations of our Opposers, the Author has thought fit to turn them into some Ridicule, and has brought them in speaking Nonsense and Contradiction, as they do; and tho' we think really he could do no less, and therefore hope for your Excuse for that Point, yet this is what we mean when we ask your Pardon for his Excursions.

But as to his Argument, we say as before, he turns them all upon the most Clear and Fundamental Article in Commerce that can be made Use of, (viz.) that a Nation ought to import no Manufactures which they can either produce among themselves, or make by their own Hands; or in short, that we should never suffer any Thing to be Imported from Abroad, which can be made at Home.

This we humbly hope the Author has so well argued, as will give your Honour, and the Members of the Honourable House  
of

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of Commons, full Satisfaction in the Justice and Merit of the Case now before you, and thereby fully justify the addressing it in this Manner to yourself.

However, we beg Leave to take Notice, that although by the Author's Reasonings, an entire Prohibition of the Foreign Manufactures of Brass are proved to be reasonable; yet that the utmost we the English Manufacturers have Petitioned the House for, amounts to no more than the setting us upon an equal Foot with the Dutch, in the English Markets, as well at Home, as in Her Majesties Colonies Abroad; in which, if our Modesty has deprived us of some Advantages which we might have hoped for from the Justice of the House of Commons, we hope that Sin shall not be laid to our Charge by the Parliament.

It has been fully argued before a Committee of the House of Commons, and we doubt



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doubt not has been proved to your Satisfaction, that the Metal-prepar'd, and Black-Lattin, are but the same Species of Manufacture, (under different Names) with that call'd Battrey; that their Value is equal; that their Cost Abroad, and Sale at Market, is, to a Trifle, the same: But that at the same Time the Difference in the Duty should be 20 s. 10 d. per Hundred for one Sort, and 10 s. per Hundred for the other Sort, less than the Duty upon Battrey; as it is insupportable to the Trade, and unreasonable, where the Quality and Value is the same, so it is the Main Thing we Petition against.

It is evident, and has been proved to your Honour, that while the Battrey pays 30 s. 4 d. per Hundred net Duty, the Metal-prepared pays but 20 s. 3 d. per Hundred, and the Black-Lattin but 9 s. 6 d. and yet are all generally sold at the same Price, the Difference being put into  
the

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the Private Purses of Three or four Importers; to preserve which, they strive to advance a Foreign Manufacture, in Prejudice of the Petitioners Works, by which so many Thousand English Families are maintained.

We shall detain you no longer from the more Weighty Arguments, used by this unknown Advocate for England's Manufactures; but referring your Honour to the following Sheets, we are, &c.

Your most Humble,

and most Obedient Servants,

The Manufacturers, &c.

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A B R I E F  
E S S A Y  
O N T H E  
Copper and Brass Manufactures  
O F  
E N G L A N D,  
Only Relative to the  
Present D E B A T E  
I N T H E  
House of Commons.  
The I N T R O D U C T I O N.

L Aying aside all Ceremonious Addresses as inconsistent with the Subject herein recommended, I proceed to inform the Readers hereof, that upon my coming to London last Week I was  
B much

much importuned by some Citizens who were formerly pleased to think me studiously disposed to promote the Good of this Nation, to make use of my Interest with the House of Commons in their Favour in a certain Case, which, if effectual, could not fail, *as they said*, of recommending my Merit to the Nation, and more especially to this City, (to which I owe my Birth and Fortune, such as 'tis.) I very readily hearkened to a Motion that had any Colour of Interest to *England*, and was studiously inquisitive into the Case, which was delivered in the following Words, which, as they were uttered, I sometimes interrupted with some short Queries, for better understanding the Particulars.

S I R,

We Congratulate you to *London*, beg your Excuse for our Presumption, and give you to know, that the Livelihood of many Thousand Families in *England*, imployed in the Staple Commodities, as well as the Interest and Maintenance of the whole Corporation of working Braziers and Armorers, in Town and Countrey, is now at the Point of Ruin, unless obstructed by the speedy Interposition of your Interest and Judgment to set the Matter in a true Light, and influence your Acquaintance from the Prejudices they have imbibed, in Favour of the Manufacturers in Copper, Brass, *Lapis Caliminaris*, &c.

*Pray Sirs, What mean you by Lapis Caliminaris?*

Oh! Sir, 'tis a Mineral found in the *West* of *England*, which Compounded with a small Proportion of Copper, make Brass. We hope, Sir, 'tis not too late to acquaint you with the Desolation impending, and ruining many  
Thou-



Thousands of your Compatriots, tho' of the poorer Sort, from this unfortunate Occasion.

*Sir, you would do well to lead me into the Secret with less Circumlocution.*

Worthy Sir, our Trade and Livelihood is invaded by a few mercenary Men, who have acquired prodigious Stocks of Money by their Oppression, and engrossing Trade and Business into their own Hands.

*Good Sirs, to the Matter.*

Sir, their Oppressors are most of them Quakers, who join together, only taking in a few Churchmen, as bad as themselves, for a Colour, lest their Monopolies should be too obvious; and Sir, if you live 20 Years, as God grant you may, your Eyes will do the Penance of seeing this Nation over-run with this Dangerous People, as already it is in the North, and ~~most~~ of England, especially Bristol, where, as we are informed, they are the Leading Men in Trade; nay, we are assured by good Accounts, that they are become so Populous and Wealthy, that they are going to erect a Third Meeting-House in that City, tho' their silent Worship had never the Sanction of any National Authority, as yours now, and ours about Fifty Years ago, had. Oh, Sir, 'tis with Regret we Commemorate the Glorious Times of our Fathers, who were then protected in their Imports and Exports, &c.

*wife*

*No more of that, Sirs.*

Pray Sir, What can the End of these Things be? We hope you will represent to the Helm of the Nation the Danger of indulging so Politick a People, in whose Favour not one good Word can be said, but that the Nation is not charged with their Paupers.

*Sirs, I must interrupt you. You give me Expectation of great Matters, and tell me nothing on which I can fix, to make any Judgment.*

Sir, You must know that we are by Occupation Importers of Brass Wares from *Holland* and *Germany*, we represent to you the Corporation of Braziers and Armourers of *London*, and Espouse the Interest of the Woollen Manufacture, Sir, the Staple Trade of Old *England*, to which we, our Families, and the Corporation we represent, as well as many Eminent Merchants, have hitherto Subscribed, by Exporting Woollen Cloaths from *England* to *Holland* and *Germany*, and receiving in Return Brass of all Sorts, suitable to the Necessities of the Nation. And Sir, We do not only supply most Parts of *England*, but all the *American* Islands, and Continent, Subject to the Crown of *England*, with all Sorts of Copper and Brass Wares, as Kettles, Pots, Pans, and all other Conveniencies and Utensils, such as Coppers, Furnaces, and Stills, for the Sugar Plantations, &c. so that we have been of great Service in our Age at Home and Abroad. We also furnish our Settlements in *Africa* with all such Brass Wares as are Vendible there, and are capable of supplying not only the Queens Dominions at Home and Abroad, but divers other States in Traffick with us, to the great Encouragement of Trade.

Sir,



Sir, This has been, and is a Trade, so considerable to the City of *London*, and so essential to the Consumption of our Woollen Manufactures, which we send to *Holland* in Exchange for these Wares, that the Desolation of many Thousands of the Queens Sober Citizens, and Loyal, tho' Poor Subjects, and among the rest of your humble Servants, must inevitably ensue its Overthrow, which is now at the Door: This is occasioned by the Clamours and Complaints of a Parcel of Men in *England*, who have assumed the Title of the United Battrey and Wire Company, who by joining their long Heads, and Purfes together, have first, after much puzzling and botching, with the Assistance of Foreign Workmen, brought the Art of making Brass-Wire to such a Perfection, as to undermine, and almost totally exclude, the Importation thereof from *Holland* and *Germany*; so that now they supply almost the whole Nation with *English* Wire, to the great Detriment of many honest Importers. And now prompted and encouraged with their Success in excluding our Friendly Neighbours, the *Hollanders*, (whose Interest we conceive to be inseparable from our own) from the Importation of *German* Wire into *England*, they are now attempting in a hostile manner to invade the Interest and Commerce of our said Friendly Allies, the *Hollanders*, (to whom we are so much obliged for helping us off with our Woollens,) in soliciting the Honourable the House of Commons to lay a farther Duty on a certain Sort of *German* Brass, called Metal-prepared, and Black-Lattin, and to take off the Draw-back from all *Dutch* Brass Imported into *England*, and sent out again to Her Majesties *American* Plantations: This, Sir, is a Business of such Consequence to us the Importers, and many poor Workmen in our several Employments,

ployments, that the Trade of Exportation of *Dutch* Brass to *America* must cease, or at least these *English* Manufacturers will be on an equal Foot with us, which will be the Way effectually to destroy us, and ruin our Trade.

Now, Sir, it deserves to be taken Notice of here, that we can prove we were in the Possession of that Trade before they ever knew how to make Brass or Copper Wares in *England*; this Trade, Sir, has been left unto us as an Inheritance by our Fathers; and, Sir, if these Manufacturers are encouraged in the Establishment of their Works in *England*, the *American* Colonies, and all *England*, will be supplied with the Commodities of *English* Produce, and we shall export no Foreign, because the *English* will undersel us, unless we buy of them instead of the *Dutch*.

Moreover, Sir, the *English* Brass is not yet so good as the *German*, for Proof whereof we refer you to the Report which the Committee, (to whose Considerations this Contest was referred,) gives in to the whole House. Only, Sir, we observe to you, that whereas you will find the Goodness of *English* Copper and Brass asserted by Witnesses brought by these New Manufacturers, and placed down in some of the Minutes of that Report, we inform you these Witnesses were Persons who have deserted the General Interest of our Company of Brasiers, (tho' otherwise they may be Men of good Report,) and have taken on with the *English* Manufacturers, refusing to conform to the Sentence and Judgment of our *Brazen-Hall*, who have, conformable to our Laws and Charter, with due Thought and Advice, resolved as far as our Stock of 645 *l.* 7 *s.* will run, and if that fail,  
have



have voted the Sale or Pledge of our Stock of Plate, which added to the former will amount to 700 Pounds, to maintain the Trade of Importing Brass from *Holland*, and Exporting it to the *American Colonies*, subject to the Crown of *England*, in Opposition to the Establishment and Furtherance of the *English* Manufacturers, which, if encouraged by the Present Parliament, as we have too great Cause to fear it will, will highly affect the Interest of our Company, and more especially of us the Importers. This, Sir, is the Sum of our Aggrievance, which, in the Name of our Brazen Corporation, we prostrate to your Judicious and Generous Endeavours, assuring you that we have no Hopes left but what we promise ourselves from your Espousing and Countenance; and for the better Directing yourself in this Affair, we lodge in your Hands the several Printed Petitions, Cases, or Explanations, passed on the Part of us and our Adversaries upon this Occasion. You may depend on the Verity of our Assertion, but those of our Adversaries are in many Places fallacious. The rest we refer to your Discreet Management, and are with one Consent,

*Worthy Sir,*

*Your most Obedients,*

*The Importers.*

*Gentlemen*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,  
to whose Sight or Hearing these Lines  
shall come.*

I Presume some of you may have the Curiosity of reading this Anonymous Paper, which only contains what I should have said to many of you, had I thought fit to have been more particularly known upon this Occasion.

I cannot look with Indifferency on any Thing that has the least Appearance of Advance to an *English* Interest : 'Twas this Humour led me, not only to hear the Addresses and Complaints of the Principal Importers and Braziers of *London*, but to spend a Few Waste Hours in deliberating and imparting the same.

I have with the Nicest Scrutiny examined the respective Pretensions of the Manufacturers of *English* Copper and Brass, and the Importers of Brass Wares from *Germany* and *Holland*. And the first Thing that occurred upon Consideration was a Surprise, that *so much as* One Man, should be found in *England* to object against the Promoting and Furthering so Eminent a Branch of Trade as the Copper and Brass Manufacturers in *England* are ; let the Undertakers be who, or what, they will, Quakers, Papists, or Presbyterians, which is worse ; and I am under a Necessity of undeceiving those Gentlemen, who courted my Assistance in suppressing an *English* Manufacture, which,  
if



if not already, yet without Controversie, is capable, with the Countenance of the Parliament, to be made as Good as any in the World; the extraordinary late Improvement and Nicety in all Sorts of Brass Wares, great and small, in and about *London*, *Brimingham*, and divers other Parts of *England*; and the Capacity and Genius of the *English* Artificers, is obvious to every common Understanding in *England*, but has acquired a singular Reputation Abroad, particularly in *France*, where our *English* Watches, *Clocks*, *Locks*, *Buckles*, *Buttons*, and all Sorts of *English* Brass Toys, are in great Esteem, and in Case of Peace we may expect an extraordinary Accession to the Consumption of our Brass Wares. What is it that the *English* cannot do upon Reasonable Encouragement? And what is it that they will be able to do, if the Interest of the Nation, and its Serviceable Members, the Contrivers and Industrious Manufacturers go on to improve in Copper and Brass, from the Oar to the Utensil? 'Twere almost incredible to represent the Number of Hands employed in the various Operations that these Metals of Copper and Brass do undergo; 'tis no less than a Brazen Assertion, that an *English* Genius and Fancy is not as capable of Improvement as *German* or *Dutch*. I look upon any Man, be he Importer, Brasier, or Merchant, that so strenuously opposes a National Good, as an Apostate from the Generous Temper of an *English* Man, and an Enemy to his Country; and do think any Thing less than Banishment is too mild for such Spurious Creatures, and Zealous Sticklers for our Dear Friends the *Hollanders*, who have been all along so tender of the *English* Interest, as not only to outdo us in the Quota, but to advance our Commerce, in giving us such Lifts with our Woollen Manufactures, now at a Time when no other Place in the World can supply 'em. Allowing, for Argument Sake, but no otherwise, the *English*

Brass to be insignificantly inferiour to the Goodness of the Foreign, perhaps to the Value of Forty Shillings, or Three Pounds in an Hundred Pounds worth, will that justify the Encouragement of Foreign Manufactures, to the Prejudice and Detriment of our own, which beyond all Dispute is capable of doing every Thing to equal Perfection with the Foreign.

Wherefore has the good God enriched our Island with these Valuable Mines and not only inspir'd us with Understanding to search and find them, but given us the Science of converting our very Earth into this refined Quality of Copper and Brass, to the Universal Accommodation of our own Uses, and all the Neighbouring Nations, who have not been favoured with these Treasures, nor the Science of working in them. We find the Wise Creator has for the most part planted these Treasures of Gold, Silver, Iron, Lead, Tin, Copper, and Brass, Mines in the most Barren and Fruitless Parts of Nations, such as are the least capable of other Products. All Nations producing Mines furnish us with Instances in Favour of this Assertion, *viz. Cornwall*, and the other Coarse Parts of the West of *England*, for Tin; the Naked and Craggy Rocks in *North Wales* for Lead; the Mines in the *North of England* and *Scotiana*, the Iron, Copper, and Lead Mines in the inaccessible Parts of *Ireland*, and Copper those of *Germany*, &c. and to omit many other Instances, the Silver and Gold Mines of *Peru*, *Mexico*, and *Brasil*, all which lye in Places most destitute of other Human Conveniences; by which it is evident most Countries having Mines were uninhabitable in those Parts, had not the Wise Disposer made this Provision for the Inhabitants, and given them this Treasure, whereby to purchase other Necessaries; but if these Treasures must be confined to their dark Habitations



bitations by the Interposition of a Foreign Interest, and which is yet more insupportable, by our own Legislators; then instead of using gratefully, we are highly guilty of abusing the Mercies of God, to oblige a Nation, from whom, if we expect any other than to be laught at, we deceive ourselves.

I conceive it may contribute to the enlightning some of those dark Understandings, who either ignorantly, or maliciously, oppose the National Good in this Affair to form this Supposition, *viz.* Allowing our Mines had been so easie of Access, so contiguous to the Residence and Conveniency of the Proprietors, Firing, Wages, &c. so cheap, and so commodiously situate for Exportation, as that we could have exported our Battrey, Metal-prepar'd, and Black-Lattin, to *Holland* and *Germany* 20 s. per Hundred Weight cheaper than these People could make them, paying there such a Duty as they should please to impose, the Question will be, whether any (who know the *Dutch*) can suppose they would admit us to draw back that Duty all to a Trifle, (too little to acknowledge Tribute to the State, and not sufficient to pay Warehouse-Room for lodging the Goods in Her Majesty's Nation,) and to export our said Goods to *Curraçao*, *Surinam*, and their other Settlements in *America*, and all this while their own Brass Wares lying on Hand for want of Sale and Vent. Surely every Man of Sence will answer this Question in the Negative; and if any do otherwise, let 'em produce an Instance of the *Dutch* being such Fools, and then I will allow them to be as great Fools as we are now.

And to give these Notions a farther Illustration, by supposing a Case parallel to it, let us conceive that the *Germans*, *Hollanders*, or some other Nation, should hap-

pily discover some Mines of Lead Oar, and the Art of converting it to all necessary Uses; and because of their easie Access, Scituation, Cheapness of Labour, or any other Causes, contributory to a moderate Price, could afford to furnish *England* with Lead cheaper than she can dig and work her own Lead Mines, I query, upon this Supposition, were it our Interest to admit the Importation of Foreign Lead upon Payment of a Duty, and its Exportation by Debenture, to all those Markets in the *Mediterranean*, and other Places, to which we owe so much of the Consumption of our Lead, as well as our own Nation in all its Branches: and by such an Indulgence lay an Imbargo on all the Lead Mines in *England* and *Wales*? This is only a Query, but I think 'tis such an one as carries its Answer along with it; why, 'tis certain, this Ingratitude to the Generous Giver of these Treasures, and to our Countrey, so favoured with them, would not be more Ridiculous than the Allowance of Importing Foreign Brasses, now in Dispute.

In the next Place, we live in Expectation of having a Trade opened to the *South Seas*, which Trade will infallibly very much augment and dispose of our *English* Brasses Wares; but if the Exportation of *English* Battrey, Brasses, &c. continue a Prostitute, (as it hitherto has been, and still is,) to the *Dutch*, till we go upon that Trade, be it sooner or later, then will the *Dutch* be more sweetly sensible of our blind Indulgence, and will consequently, (as their Nature is,) impose upon us farther; and then, when we have all been as tired with bearing their Burthens as some have already, I am apt to think the Parliament will do of their own Accord, and without any Opposition, what now admits of so much Contest and Sollicitation. How inconsistent is it with the Law of Nature and of Nations, that



that the Continent and Islands of *America*, which are no other than so many Counties of *England*, should be all supplied with Foreign Battrey, Brass, &c. by Means of such Debentures as are allowed, 8 s. 6 d. drawn back out of 9 s. 6 d. paid, which is little else than taking those Goods directly from *Holland* to our Plantations, and all this while our own Mines lock'd under the Hatches, our Hands manacled, and our Trade, in this Point, languishing and sinking under these Loads, and may be reduced by these Extremities to a Necessity of resigning their Works, which have been invented, contrived, and carried on, with so immense Charge and Loss, as well as the Ruin of several of the Original Undertakers.

I say again, if we are ever to have Commerce with the *Spanish West-Indies*, which I'm sure we aim at in every Fund we raise for carrying on this War, there will be an Absolute Necessity of making the Exportation of Foreign Brass Wares yield, and strike Sail to those of *Great Britain*; and if we do not this we shut our Eyes to the Interest of this Nation.

All the Opposition made to the Brass Manufactures of *England* is by Three or Four Importers, who, by their Zeal against their Countrey, will only perpetuate the Infamous Characters of themselves and Successors: Whether these Men compass their own Ends or no, they oppose their Countrey under these Specious Pretences.

1st, That any farther Charge than already is on *Dutch* Brass Wares, will derogate from the Exportation of our Woollens, &c.

2dly,

2dly, That the *English* Brass is not quite so kindly in its Operation as Foreign.

In these Two Objections is comprised the Sum of all their Pretensions, and how far they merit the Notice of a Parliament, we shall examine with all Neutrality.

'Tis True, that we furnish *Holland*, great Part of *Germany*, *Flanders*, and other States, more *Northern* as well as *Southern*, with Woollen Cloaths, from all which Places we have something in which they abound, and we may want; whereby it appears as if Providence had destin'd the mutual Commerce and Intercourse that is all the World over as at this Day.

Most Countreys abound in some Conveniencies of Life which others want; let us look at the Original of Things, and we shall find that God has appointed it so for a general Accommodation, and to establish an Universal Acquaintance and Correspondence between Nations, that the whole Earth may concur and acknowledge the True God.

For Instance, did our Nation in *England* abound in nothing, nor stand in need of any Thing it receives from Abroad, what at first should have induced us to go in Quest of other Countreys, who are now become Serviceable to us, and we more to them?

Do we receive Baulks, Pitch, Rosin, &c. from *Norway*, and they Woollens from us, because they abound in one, and we in t'other? Or because we want their Timber for our Navigation, Houses, &c. and they our  
our



our Woollens in that cold Countrey? I conceive the latter. The same may be said of *Germany*, *Holland*, and all the other Places with whom we Trade by Way of Barter, for I believe there is no Nation, (but if there is, certainly 'tis not the Dutch,) can be supposed to Import any Commodity for any other End than their own Accommodation; and 'tis so with all Nations but *England*; but because the *Hollanders* take our Woollens, Tobacco, &c. to answer their own and Neighbours Necessities, which is but reasonable, we must therefore, out of meer Ceremony, import a Commodity in which we abound at Home. But to turn the Tables, could the *Dutch* furnish themselves, and all their Neighbours, with Woollens, upon easier Terms than we supply them, I suppose we must look out for other Chapmen, than which nothing were more natural and reasonable on their Part; and is it not as reasonable now that we should send them in Quest of other Chapmen for their Battery? &c. Now allowing for Arguments Sake the Value of Battrey Imported to be Exported in Woollens in lieu thereof, what Use can be made of such a Concession? Why, say the Gentlemen Importers, if we prohibit the Importation of *German* Brass conveyed to us by the *Hollanders*, who make a shift to pick a Commission of 20 per Cent. out of it, then the *Dutch*, by Way of Reprisal, will prohibit the *English* Woollen Manufactures; this is the absurd Way of the Importers arguing, who being for the most Part of the REPROBATION, would Export us, and our Monarchical Constitution, to the *Terra del Fuego*, or anywhere else, to make Way for their Antimonarchical Brethren, if God had not been graciously pleased to chain down their Hands, which Eminent Blessing is worthy of Immortal Record in *British* Hearts. But to keep to our  
Neutra-

Neutrality first proposed, let us proceed. Indeed it is but natural and reasonable for the *Dutch* to give us Battrey for Cloth, if we will admit such a Barter, because they abound in one, and want the other; and 'twas as natural and reasonable that we should admit such a Barter for the same Reason, before we had found the Knack of turning *English* Minerals into as good Brasses as any in the World.

But now the Case is altered, 'tis now our Duty and Policy to prohibit that, which before 'twas both to allow, there is now the same Reason that we should prohibit Foreign Brasses, because we abound in our own, as there was before to receive it, because we had none.

Our Importers of Brasses are Hood-wink'd by their Private Interest, and are so far from consulting the National Good, and promoting its Interest in the Furtnerance of its Manufactures, that they have the Brasses to address this Present Parliament of 1712, (*Eighteen Months ago this Assurance would have been no Surprise,*) to Vote counter to an Interest so evident and so eminent to *England* in the whole, and all its Parts, as the Encouragement of such a Work must needs be in the Pitch of Perfection it is capable of being brought to.

The Importers are under a monstrous Delusion, if they think there would be a Piece of Woollen Cloth less Exported if all Foreign Brasses were prohibited, than which nothing is more consistent with our Reason and Interest; and if the Importation of Foreign Brasses cease, and the Importers cease to Export Woollens, all the Alteration ensuing thereon would be, that the Exportation



tation of Woollens will fall into other Hands, who will Export just as much more as these do less. For all those Northern and Eastern Markets must be supplied with Woollen Cloths while the Climates and Qualities of the Countreys are the same as now; and while they have any Money left 'em, or any Thing to purchase 'em; and where shall they go? Has not God Blessed *England* and *Ireland*, and made them like the Store-houses of *Egypt* in the Times of Famine, to deal both Food and Raiment to most Part of *Christendom* in their Extremities? As we are not to insult the Necessities of our Neighbours, so neither are we obliged to incommode ourselves in Complaisance to any Nation in the World; nay, tho' it were the Mercenary *Batavians*.

We understand the Present King *Philip* of *Spain* is upon the Establishment of Woollen Manufactures in his Dominions.

The *Florentines* have also, under severe Penalties, forbid the Importation of Woollen Cloths into their Jurisdiction.

We see how our Neighbour Nations are beginning to look about them; these Lazy People, the *Spaniards*, after their long Lethargy, are going to exert their Industry upon the little Wooll they have; but because the People are naturally averse to Labour, and their Prince knowing how difficult 'twere to bring 'em to it, while they may have Things ready made brought to their Hands, prohibits the Importation, or wearing any other than their own Produce. And is there not as much Reason that we encourage these Poor Barren Parts of the Kingdom, whose only Treasure and Dependance does consist in their Mines of divers Sorts:

The allowing the Importation of Brass Wares from any Part of the World, is clapping a Padlock on, and Handcuffing the Inhabitants of all our Brass Mineral Counties. If this Mineral Trade should be forc'd to undergo a Dissolution thro' the Discouragement of the Commons of *England*, the Nation would be much puzzled to find Occupation for the many Thousands now subsisting by these Works all over this Kindom; and not only so, but the Number of our Mendicant Troops must receive a prodigious Augmentation; and to make one Step farther, I assert, and it is incontestably true, that if the Brass Manufacturers of *England* are denied their just Suit, for being put on an equal Foot of Exportation with Foreign and Domestick Importers, the Bodies of Thousands employed in these Mines, and other Branches of the Trade, must undergo the Exportation denied to their Manufactures, and at the same Time permitted to Foreign; viz. instead of making Brass in *England*, they must go plant Tobacco in *Virginia*, Rice in *Carolina*, and barrel up stinking Fish in *New-England*, to the farther Contagion of our *West-Indian* Islands. And could I possibly appropriate One Day to this Subject, I would clearly represent to you the Fate and Dismal Consequence of such a Severity in several Respects.

As to the Difference of Operation between *English* and Foreign Brass, we are all assured, and 'tis an indisputable Truth, that we have, or may have, all Sorts of Operations, both coarse and fine, great and small, performed to the utmost Nicety and Perfection in *English* Brass; and all the *Brazen Company* do accord that they are not distinguishable when finished, and that they bare equal Prices, which is as much as need be said of the Quality, tho' if 'twere not quite as good, (which we



we know it is,) since 'tis capabl of being made so, we are to promote, and not join with the Importers and Merchants, (who sell for the *Hollanders* upon Commission, which no Body feels but themselves,) in the Suppression, and stifling a Trade so considerable to *England*.

But these Importers have the Brass, not only to charge the Commodity with every Thing that will bear the Name of Imperfection, tho' the same Blemishes are by their own Confession in the Foreign, but they upbraid and villifie every Man's Judgment that will not perfidiously join with them in their Reproaches on *English* Battrey, Brass, &c.

A Third Objection, which these Reprobate Importers have advanced in my hearing, is, that if a farther Duty be laid on Foreign *Metal-prepared*, and *Black-Latin*, as they call 'em, and the Debentures removed from all Battrey Exported, our Beloved Trade of Importation, *say they*, (which before these ugly Mills were set up in *England*,) was so beneficial to us, when it was in the Power of us, the Importers, to impose our own Prices on the Merchants, who bought for Exportation, and our Customers in the Countrey must drop, and no longer stand by us: But whereas we then imposed our Rates on the Town and Countrey according to their Necessity, and our own Pleasure, we shall now be liable to the same Imposition from these *English* Manufacturers, unless they improve their Generosity and Honesty to a better Standard than we could ever bring ours to; then we shall have no more Shops to go to than the whole Nation had when the whole Trade was lodg'd in us, the Importers.

This is an Objection of so little Force, that I think its Confutation does naturally accompany the Insertion : But nothing can be more Natural than to conclude, that when this Trade of making Copper and Brass in *England* receives the Encouragement and Helps which are due to it from the Interest of the Nation ; I say, that more Mills will be set up, all these Quantities of Foreign Brass Wares which we Import and Export will be made at Home ; and instead of receiving Brass Wares from *Holland*, and supplying our Colonies therewith, we shall be able to supply, not only ourselves at Home and Abroad entirely with *English*, but we may hope in Time to serve several other Markets hitherto supplied by the *Dutch* ; and whoever lives a few Years will probably see many more Undertakers of these Works, who, by striving to undermine one another, will always keep the Prices Low ; for 'tis not to be suppos'd when we are set on the Foot of Exportation, that One, Two, Three, or half a Dozen Mills, will answer all Demands at Home and Abroad ; tho', as we are pinch'd now, Two may do the Business ; and nothing is more Feasible than that these Importers, when barr'd the Importation of Foreign, will be the first that shall form a Body to promote the *English* ; in short, were all the Motions of the Foreigners, in Contempt of *English* Brass, true, I can't why that should delay so Reasonable a Suit as is now made by the Manufacturers.

Surely the Commons of *England* are not to be imposed on, so as to think that these Importers of Foreign Brass have any Regard to the Prosperity of the Woollen Trade, or the Poor employed therein ; or that it would not be all one to them whether there's a Piece of Woollen Exported in Seven Years, so you indulge them in Importing and Exporting Foreign Brass. As



As it is most surprizing, that any professing Subjection and Loyalty to the Crown of *England* should have the Assurance to Address the Commons of *England*, in Prejudice of the very Interest and People, for which, and for whom, they assemble.

So it is no less surprizing, that they should think such Motions should obtain a favourable Acceptation with any who are thought worthy of occupying a Seat in so Honourable a Convention. How can they imagine that any One Commoner of *England* can vote the Suppression of our own Copper and Brass Manufactures? Since there is not a County, a Town, or a Parish, in *England*, that have not a proportionable Interest in this Trade; the promoting whereof now turns upon this single Point and Query, (*viz.*) *Shall we Countenance, and give our Vote for the Brass Manufactures of England? Or for the Brass Manufactures of Germany and Holland?*

I will never believe 'tis possible that our House should divide upon this Question, till I see it in Her Printed Votes.

I know this is not the first Occasion we have had to dispute the Interest of *England* with the *Hollanders* in Point of Trade; and as these Occasions have occurred, we generally, *I don't know by what Means*, come off by the worst; and I can't help thinking this Politick People do bear us down by a Fund, or by giving a Discretionary Commission to their Agents and Factors in *London* to stand by their Causes, which are always Disguised and Gilded over with a Shew and Pretence of Interest to *England*: Thus we have often been decoy'd, of which  
several

Several Instances may be produced ; and which I impute very much to the general Affectation of that Maxim, so common to the Mouths of one Sort of People in *England*, viz. *That the Interest of England and Holland are inseparable*, than which Credulity nothing has been of more fatal Consequence to this Nation some Years past ; and nothing is more easily proved, than that their Interests in many Cases are directly opposite.

Let 'em outdo us if they can in Markets, to which they may plead equal Title ; but pray, Dear Countreymen, and Gentlemen, let us not be so fondly Passive in beholding our Incontestable Rights thus Invaded and Sacrificed to a People, who have more Money, and less Manners, than any we have yet had to do with. Witness their most Impertinent, their most Officious, and their most immodest Resentment of the Queen of *Great-Britain's* Pleasure, in putting down and setting up her own Servants and Subjects, as the Conveniency of her Household, and her Peoples Affairs, may require, (of which the States of *Holland*, you must know, are to be Judges.)

Oh ! Insolence in *Folio*, Oh ! *Dutch* Manners. I challenge Christendom, nay, the World, to produce one Instance of an Affront Parallel to this ; and now am I obliged to Muster all my Force against the Infirmities of my Temper, being most sensibly and tenderly touch'd with the Invasion of the Honour and Prerogative of the most Gracious Sovereign in the World, whose obliging Clemency and Condescension to all Nations, has brought the Causes and Disputes of Christendom, and almost the whole World, under her Mediation ; and they are for the most Part sensible of, and thankful for, these



these Benefits ; and in Testimony whereof, many Foreign Princes and States have, to my Knowledge, given the Character of her *Britannick* Majesty Credit upon Record, for her Disposition, and Amicable Interposition, to heal the Breaches of Nations, than which nothing will more contribute to perpetuate and render Her Majesties Fame and Memory Immortal.

Much more I have to offer in Favour of our *English* Trade, in this or other Branches, but have not now Leisure or Room in this Compass to illustrate these Notions, with Instances of the Customs and Maxims of other Nations relating to Commerce ; and what is in the General Sence of Nations profitable, and what not ; and the Original Inducements to Barter, and Trucking one Commodity for another. However, as the most of you have no need to be acquainted with such Matters, I hope, (tho' from no other Inducement, than that I would lend a Hand to promote a Manufacture so evidently profitable to our Nation,) the Aggrievances attending this Trade will receive Redress and Relief at your Honourable Hands, without suffering your Judgments to be swayed by any Consideration which does not consist with the common Good of *England*, much less by the specious and fallacious Pretences of these Sons of *Oliverian* Importers, who alone can be said to have any Interest in the Importation, and those but a few, and only in our City of *London* ; and even those mistake their own Interest, for they may make the same Advantage by dealing in *English* as Foreign ; witness the Reputable Living of many Hundred Substantial Brasiers, who being of a right *English* Stamp, do deal altogether in the same, to the entire Satisfaction of themselves and Customers.

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These

These Notions have proceeded from due Thought and Consideration, tho' penn'd in a Hurry; and I have only Time to say, I wish every Representative of *England* did act with the same Disinterestedness, and aim for the general Good of *England*, as this is writ, which you will readily grant when I shall have told you the Author, and who is well known to most of you.

It is every Man's Business to consider that he appears for *Great-Britain* in the Whole, and in all its Parts, and not for one Part against another.

I fancy if one were behind the Curtain, attentive to the Privy Debates of the *Batavian* States, one should hear no such Stickling there for the Interest of *England*.

*Humbly Subscribed,*

*Great S-I-R-S,*

*Yours, and the Nation's,*

*Most Humble Servant.*



**FINIS.**



